2022 IMPACT REPORT

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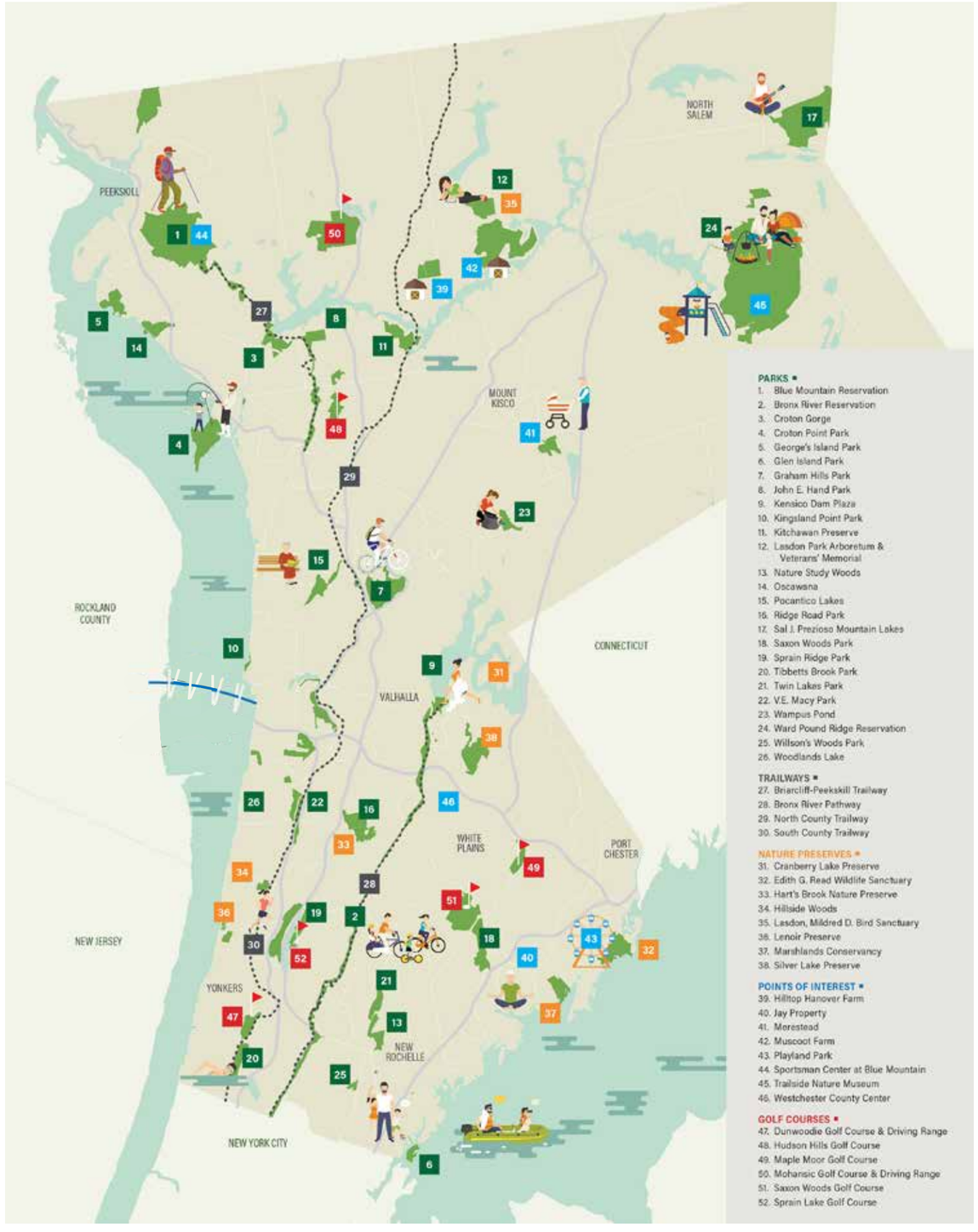
WHEREVER YOU ARE IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY, THERE'S A GREAT PARK NEARBY!



OUR MISSION

Westchester Parks Foundation engages the public to advocate for and invest in the preservation, conservation, use, and enjoyment of the 18,000 acres of parks, trails, and open spaces within the Westchester County Parks system.

Westchester Parks Foundation is a private, not-for-profit organization. For more than 45 years, we have invested over **20 million dollars** to enhance and preserve county parks for all to enjoy.

Our Board of Trustees comprises a diverse team of committed individuals who devote time and expertise to ensure that our parks will be here for future generations to enjoy.

WHY SUPPORT PARKS?

There is a park for everyone in Westchester County. We are united by the fact that we all have incredible memories and experiences in our parks and outdoor spaces. Everyone, from all walks of life, refresh mind and body in our parks. Westchester County Parks are home to a wide array of settings including lakes, bike trails, golf courses, beaches, pools, campgrounds, athletic fields and nature preserves. In 2022, millions of people continued to visit parks, spending more time than ever enjoying our natural green spaces. Volunteering, bird watching, swimming, hiking, golfing, walking, and more, whatever you like to do, there is a park in Westchester for you. Let's all speak up and stand up for our beloved parks, and protect these spaces for future generations.

Park users enjoying Kensico Dam Plaza

OUR NEW HOME!

This year, Westchester Parks Foundation was proud to move into a new, permanent home in Mount Kisco! The 6,000 square foot space at 104 Smith Avenue is the perfect space for our growing staff and expanding set of programming. We held a grand opening in October with staff, trustees, donors and volunteers celebrating the new space, and we look forward to continuing to advance our mission in our new headquarters!

ADVOCACY

Westchester Parks Foundation continues to be a vocal advocate for parks, leading the call to keep Westchester County Parks the best for all who use them. Throughout each year, we meet with elected officials to advocate for parks improvement projects, staffing, funding, and more. Whether it's encouraging the safe and timely expedition of capital projects, to keeping parks and recreation issues at the forefront of the agendas for county and business leaders, our board and staff continually speaking up and speaking out for our precious park system. We have always believed that investment in infrastructure and preservation of current parkland are critical to keeping Westchester's parks beautiful, vital, and accessible to all as part of a thriving economy and vibrant community. We thank our County's leaders for all of their efforts to move much-needed capital projects forward in our parks.

TIBBETTS GAZEBO

In 2022, our longtime wish list project, the restoration of the Gazebo on Tibbetts Brook Park Lake, continued to make progress, thanks to funding from a generous private donor. Original to the park and conceived during the "roaring 1920's" as a lakeside pavilion and bandstand, the gazebo has stood in a state of disrepair in recent decades. The Romanesque structure, which boasts nine elegant arches, will be restored to its former glory becoming a destination at the park. Paint coatings and graffiti will be removed to restore the original finish and help to re-establish its historic relationship to its setting, on a point projecting into the lake that has long eroded away. Enhanced plantings, lighting and sound will allow new staging for music, plays, opera, weddings & gatherings: A "Mini Tanglewood at Tibbetts". This project, together with WPF's other efforts to restore the water quality of the lake, will continue to bring the area back to recreational use. **Walter Sedovic Architects**, locally based in Irvington, is the architecture firm chosen for the project, and has been working hand in hand with WPF and Westchester County Parks to carefully complete the project, with an anticipated grand reopening in late 2023 or early 2024.

The Gazebo at Tibbetts Brook Park

Volunteers removing Water Chestnut from Tibbetts Brook Park Lake

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

In 2022, our dedicated volunteers made an impressive impact giving back to the parks they love. By the end of the year, 4,115 volunteers had contributed 12,119 hours of service to the parks, trails, and open spaces across the county. This is equivalent to $362,964 worth of investment of sweat equity into Westchester's Parks.[1] This year we were pleased to strengthen community relationships with local businesses and schools, through our volunteer projects and internships.

Our **Corporate Partner Program** expanded this year to include new sponsors including Cubico and AllianceBernstein, as well as returning sponsors USI and Xylem. Corporate volunteers accomplished 31 projects in the parks this year, including much-needed vine cutting around the historic wine cellars at **Croton Point Park**, and building bog walkways at **Edith Read Wildlife Sanctuary**.

This year, our **Clean River Project** celebrated its fifth year with the support of sponsor PepsiCo. Through hands-on science, 171 volunteers removed and cataloged 11,364 items of floatable trash from two locations on the **Bronx River**. Our volunteer numbers for Clean River Project doubled from 2021 thanks to continued partnerships with local schools and of course, good weather!

Our **Green Squad** leaders continued to make an impact by going out to the parks on their own schedule to remove trash, manage invasive species, and lead other volunteers at cleanups. This year we welcomed 4 new Green Squad leaders, and the Green Squads removed 812 lbs. of trash from 14 park locations.

In 2022, **Westchester Parks Foundation** entered year five of its lake revitalization project at **Tibbetts Brook Park**. Prior to our involvement, ten acres of Tibbetts Brook Park Lake were infested with the invasive species, Water Chestnut (Trapa natans). Thanks to our partners Xylem and GA Fleet, we once again secured funding to remove the Water Chestnut using a mechanical harvester. Our community volunteers and Summer Greenterns contributed an amazing 484 hours of hand pulling efforts to remove 15,910 pounds of Water Chestnut from the lake. With each year of continued management, Westchester Parks Foundation is one step closer to bringing aquatic recreation back to Tibbetts Brook Park.

In partnership with **Volunteer New York!**, we joined 18 local nonprofits for 9/11: Serve + Remember. WPF Volunteers participated in this day of service at Tibbetts Brook Park and Croton Point Park in honor of those whose lives were lost or changed forever on September 11, 2001.

Twenty twenty-two saw the return of the Volunteer Program's **Greenternship Program**—a hands-on conservation internship held in winter and summer with over 30 participants. The Greenterns performed 607 hours of service, both in-office and in our parks. They learned about invasive species and led 168 community members at environmentally-focused volunteer projects.

1 According to the Independent Sector's estimate of value of Volunteer Time in New York State.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Volunteer Program was awarded funding for its **All of Westchester Internship**, a new paid internship focused on providing work experience to individuals from groups underrepresented in the environmental field. This project was contracted by the **Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management** using funds from the Environmental Protection Fund as administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Our 2 interns, **Mia Veefkind** and **Simara Jones**, gained an understanding of invasive species, surveyed and identified 23 areas of beech leaf disease, and engaged with various organizations and community members at events in 10 different parks. Their August 18 trash awareness event at **Willson's Woods Park** was featured on News12.

PITCH IN FOR PARKS

To ready our parks for the busy season, **Pitch in for Parks** was held in April and hosted 608 volunteers over a week-long initiative. In just one week our volunteers reached 16 park locations, including an Earth Day cleanup at Ridge Road Park with Gold Sponsor Triton International.

This fall, when Westchester County Parks ended up with over 80 trees supplied by **Westchester Soil & Water Conservation District** and the **New York Power Authority**, the Volunteer Program showed up to plant! Additional trees were secured through our Corporate Partner Program, individual donors, and a **Trees For Tribs** grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. When all was said and done, the Volunteer Program helped plant an incredible **486 trees in 9 parks**. Planting native trees is crucial to preserving the biodiversity of our parks as they face threats like invasive plant species, beech leaf disease, and erosion.

INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS

The Volunteer Program continued its partnership with the **New York - New Jersey Trail Conference Invasives Strike Force** to identify and remove emerging species at Nature Study Woods and Bronx River Reservation. We also spread awareness of invasive species with the installation of three Boot Brush Stations. These stations were built by local **Eagle Scout** candidates who chose Westchester Parks Foundation to be the beneficiary of their projects.

VOLUNTEER SHOUT-OUT

In January, Eastchester High School's **Going Green Club** was recognized for their contribution to their community through Westchester Parks Foundation's Clean River Project. County Legislator Damon Maher presented the students and their faculty advisor Jean Marie Woods-Ray with a proclamation and highlighted "that because of their dedication to remove thousands of items from the Bronx River, they have helped preserve the health and beauty of the Bronx River Reservation for thousands of park users."

VOLUNTEERS SINCE PROGRAM INCEPTION: 2015–2022

21,334 VOLUNTEERS

63,085 HOURS OF SERVICE

$1,857,521 SWEAT EQUITY

2022 VOLUNTEER PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

$362,964 SWEAT EQUITY	**11,364** PIECES OF TRASH REMOVED FROM BRONX RIVER	**2,582** SQ FT. PICNIC AREAS AND PLAYGROUNDS MULCHED	**92** FT. WOODEN WALKWAYS BUILT OR REPAIRED
134,976 SQ FT. INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGED	**7,731** SQ. FT. FLOWERBEDS MAINTAINED	**1,547** FLOWERS PLANTED	**33** INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
30,592 LBS. OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVED	**7,050** GOLF BALLS RETURNED TO OUR RANGES	**1,197** TREES SAVED	**31** CORPORATE PROJECTS
13,056 LBS TRASH REMOVED	**4,115** VOLUNTEERS	**699** TREES AND SHRUBS PLANTED	**15** SCHOOLS ENGAGED
12,119 HOURS OF SERVICE	**4,078** SQ. FT. PAINTED	**290** COMMUNITY PROJECTS	**13** GREEN SQUADS

Campers enjoying recreation time at Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park

In the summer of 2022, **Camp Morty** returned home to **Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park** after two long awaited summers to host campers for overnight camp!

Westchester Parks Foundation staff dedicated months of planning over winter and spring to allow for returning to our overnight model while keeping safety at the forefront. In addition to operating overnight camp, Camp Morty was also excited to welcome back our dedicated international camp counselors, including returning international staff from 2019. Camp Morty hosted staff from five countries including as far away as New Zealand! We were also proud to have had a total of 12 returning staff, including two former CITs. Our outstanding staff were ready to welcome our campers back to camp for an unforgettable summer!

This summer, we received 435 complete applications and were able to fill over 70% of our open slots though we only operated five out of six sessions due to COVID safety measures. A total of 309 campers got to swim, hike, and explore the outdoors while learning valuable life skills and making new friends. From our camper population, we had 7 counselors-in-training complete our summer program. 20% of campers came from the most challenging situations – those who come from homeless shelters, foster care, child preventive and protective cases.

Camp Morty maintains its national accreditation with the American Camping Association and, as a result of our accreditation, we received scholarships to send ten additional campers to camp!

Camp Morty was grateful to be the recipient of two dynamic grants this summer. **Gabrielle's Wings** sponsored Camp Morty's new sensory space and outfitted it with vital tools for our campers. We equipped our campers and staff alike with the tools needed to kick start conversations regarding the 'how-to's' of emotional regulation and de-escalation. Camp Morty also received a generous grant from **Verizon Foundation** to begin a STEAM program at camp, which included beginner coding and robotics lessons. Our campers had a blast using technology and learning the basics of robotics.

Camp Morty continued our close partnership with **St. Christophers, Inc**. to get many of their youth residents registered for camp. We also maintained our strong relationship with **United Way of Westchester and Putnam Counties**, whose continuous donations of goods were put to extremely valuable use this summer. Thank you to our dedicated partners in Westchester County, the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Conservation, the Department of Social Services, and the Department of Community Mental Health! WPF is immensely proud of the experience that our campers receive as a result of this collaboration.

MERRIWOOD

Thanks to an incredibly successful Gala and the kindness of our individual donors, Camp Morty is launching a new teen camp program next summer called Merriwood. Merriwood is specifically designed for teen campers 13-15 years old, and it emphasizes teen empowerment, building life skills, community service and professional development. Merriwood will launch in 2023 as a small pilot program for approximately 30 campers in with the goal of expanding in 2024 to host approximately 100 campers!

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

#TRACKTHETRUCK

Thanks to our 2021 Giving Tuesday donors, the Volunteer Program acquired a second vehicle in early 2022. The truck was unveiled at the **Bronx River Blitz**, where 106 volunteers collected litter from the 11-mile pathway in one day. By following #trackthetruck on Instagram, you can see that during our busy season (May-October), we reached 43 more park sites than 2021!

NATURE CENTER FIELD TRIPS

Nature Center Field Trips began to be offered to underserved students across Westchester County. Through generous funding from a private donor, the goal of the program is to provide transportation funding to school districts that may not otherwise be able to afford busing, and introduce students of diverse backgrounds to the opportunities that nature education provides. Westchester Parks Foundation believes that parks are for everyone, and we continue to seek opportunities for all children to be introduced to the benefits that parks provide.

GIS EQUIPMENT

WPF provided the Conservation Division of Westchester County Parks with **GIS Equipment** intended to help with ongoing wildlife research! Coupled with County GIS services, the staff were able to conduct research on the movement and habits of deer and other native wildlife. In addition, WPF staff began surveying the trees and benches across the parks system, updating the existing database of locations for memorials.

WPF continues to participate in initiatives at Kensico Dam Plaza, with our beautiful seasonal hanging baskets and contributing to sponsorship of July 3rd Music Fest.

NEW PROGRAM ALERT!

We are thrilled to announce the first **Adaptive Hike Program** within Westchester County Parks set to launch in 2023! Thanks to the support of individual community members, donors, local businesses, as well as the recent grant award from Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, this program will provide equitable access to nature. Individuals will be able to reserve an All-Terrain Trackchair at no cost throughout specific county parks. The program will allow individuals living with spinal cord injury, amputation, paraplegia, are elderly, or have other disabilities the opportunity to immerse themselves in our trail system. It will also offer caregivers the ability to continue their fitness goals, create a unique space to build relationships, and increase the physical and mental wellbeing of our community. Local business supporters include Veolia, Standard Amusements, Robison Oil, Captain Lawrence Brewing, Little Leaf, and Triton International.

We're helping Tibbetts Brook Park begin to **Go Green**! Thanks to the incredible staff at Tibbetts, WPF was given the opportunity to help contribute to replacing the often used gas-powered equipment with newer and more efficient battery-powered machines. These new machines use rechargeable batteries, and are quieter and less intrusive to park patrons. The park was able to implement battery operated blowers, pressure washers, pole saws and hedge trimmers to clean and maintain areas that they were unable to reach before, and replacing equipment that was too heavy to operate or emitted dangerous greenhouse gases.

WPF was a contributor to The Healing Garden at Ridge Road Park, dedicated to building awareness of suicide prevention spearheaded by Westchester County and in partnership with NAMI Westchester. The Healing Garden will consist of a variety of trees, pathway and benches in a circular shape and serve as a gathering place for family and friends to reflect.

BICYCLE SUNDAYS

Sponsored by

conEdison NewYork-Presbyterian

We welcomed back co-presenting sponsors **Con Edison** and **NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital**, who continued their generous support for another season of car-free fitness, fresh air, and environmental appreciation on the historic Bronx River Parkway. This year we were also pleased to applaud a brand-new presenting sponsor **BJ's Wholesale Club** in support of the program. Westchester Parks Foundation also hosted the very first **WPF Day**.

Bicycle Sunday participants stopped by the Northbound rest stop to meet WPF Staff, learn about our various programs throughout the year, receive giveaways, and enjoy refreshments. Our Westchester community continues to show their love for this iconic Westchester tradition. The public has contributed to fundraising, voiced support through social media, and shown strong attendance on event Sundays totaling an incredible 16 days this season. Bicycle Sundays continues to provide opportunities during a time when people need outlets for recreation and fitness. We love that people got out of their cars each week to make incredible memories on the Parkway. Incredibly, over 60,000 people biked, walked, and jogged in the 2022 season.

Bicycle Sunday participants enjoying their ride on the parkway

Golfer practicing at Dunwoodie Driving Range

DUNWOODIE AND MOHANSIC DRIVING RANGES

Did you know? Many of the programs and initiatives of Westchester Parks Foundation are made possible by proceeds from the operation of the driving ranges at Dunwoodie in Yonkers and Mohansic in Yorktown. When golfers come out to practice their swing, they are supporting parks and trails all over Westchester! And we're pleased to share that 2022 was a big year for capital improvements at these ranges! Here are the enhancements made at Dunwoodie and Mohansic Golf Ranges this year:

With one of the largest donations our organization has ever received, we were able to update and refurbish a large portion of Mohansic Driving Range. The total donation exceeded $300,000 in helping us to repair the grassy fairway. Construction was completed in December by two very generous donors Montesano Brothers and Local 137 Operating Union, who provided all of the materials, machinery and labor for the benefit of the golfers.

WPF also piloted and implemented a new state of the art payment system "Range Star" Card and Phone App.

In addition, at Dunwoodie Driving Range, a $40,000 investment in new outdoor high energy efficiency lighting for improved nightly customer experience, new netting to keep balls inbounds for golfer safety, and two new target greens. Mohansic Driving Range added new netting to keep balls inbounds for golfer safety and two new target greens.

Our Volunteer Program again was able to coordinate and mobilize volunteers to conduct several beautification projects including planting dozens of flowers in several 3ft high flower urns and recovering several thousand golf balls that deviated from our range areas.

GOLF CLASSIC

WPF held our 4th annual Golf Classic at Westchester Hills Golf Club in White Plains. Golfers returned to our classic format and enjoyed a shamble with their fellow players! After playing 18 holes of golf, participants relaxed for an incredible buffet. All participants in attendance were there in support of Westchester Parks Foundation and our mission to advocate for and invest in local outdoor green space and recreation. Westchester's public parks, trails, beaches and golf courses bring the important aspect of "play", improving the quality of life and economic wellbeing to our residents as the example that Westchester County is a great place to live, work, and play.

Westchester's
WINTER WONDERLAND
Drive-thru
Holiday Light Extravaganza
Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla, NY

Presented by Westchester Parks Foundation · Founding Sponsor WMC Health

Westchester's Winter Wonderland Drive-Thru Holiday Light Extravaganza continues to be a cherished holiday tradition, now in its ninth season in 2022. In partnership with **Westchester County Parks, Recreation, and Conservation,** and made possible by founding sponsor **Westchester Medical Center Health Network**, Westchester Parks Foundation continued to host a safe holiday experience the whole family could enjoy. Over 90,000 people were dazzled and delighted with 1.2 miles of holiday lights, with NEW larger than life displays, and a visit with Santa right from the warmth of their own car, with all of their friends and family. Holiday classics were simulcast through the vehicles' FM radios, setting the mood from the moment cars entered the park. Several new additions include a new North Pole and live Santa display; breathtaking Kaleidoscope Alley; expanded Peace on Earth LED display with animated trumpets and angels; and more electrifying lights surrounding the largest holiday Christmas tree in Westchester! And that is not all, for the grand finale, guests were able to make their New Year's wish upon a new thirty-foot glistening star that was featured at the end of the interactive show. Special event nights included the official tree lighting celebration on opening night, and a continuous ball drop for a family-friendly festive way to ring in the New Year. Ned and Albert's Holiday Treat Box returned this year in partnership with sponsor **Wegmans**. Items consisted of five yummy snack items, and a Winter Wonderland logoed moose plushie. Also available to purchase were Winter Wonderland logoed Candy Cane Light Batons!

Ned and Albert's Holiday Treat Boxes were packed by incredible volunteers from **The Arc Westchester**, whose 231 volunteers dedicated 44 hours during a 22-day span to assemble 6,399 Treat Boxes! We are so grateful for their hard work and dedication. Winter Wonderland attendees also generously supported the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital and Camp Morty in the Help to Heal initiative. The light show was created and programmed this year by the incredibly creative minds of **Eclectic Precision** and **Dark Tech Effects**. We are sincerely grateful to our founding presenting sponsor Westchester Medical Center Health Network and returning platinum sponsor **Con Edison**. We also thank tree lighting sponsor Robison Oil, New Year's Eve sponsor M&T Bank, Holiday music sponsor Iona Preparatory School, Ned & Albert's Holiday Treat box sponsor Wegmans, Benjamins Steakhouse, and as always, our media sponsors Westchester County Tourism, Westchester Magazine, and Altice Media. The use and enjoyment of our parks is core to our mission, and Winter Wonderland invites people of all ages to enjoy the spectacular beauty of Kensico Dam Plaza during the holiday season. Proceeds from this event directly benefit Westchester Parks Foundation and allow us to serve the park system year-round through programming, advocacy, and direct support.

Attractions at this year's Westchester's Winter Wonderland

Park users enjoying Kensico Dam Plaza

GRANT AND SPONSOR HIGHLIGHTS

Thank you to the outstanding corporate, local, and individual partners who sponsored our programs and provided grants to help us fulfill our mission and support parks and the community in 2022.

- **Westchester Medical Center**, presenting sponsor of Westchester's Winter Wonderland for the 9th year, and continued sponsor of the Westchester County golf courses.
- **The Moriarty Family** for their transformational contribution to allow for the historic restoration of the Tibbetts Brook Park Gazebo, scheduled to be completed by early 2024.
- **Con Edison**, co-presenting sponsor of Bicycle Sundays for an 11th consecutive year and platinum sponsor of Westchester's Winter Wonderland.
- **New York Presbyterian's** generous co-presenting sponsorship of Bicycle Sundays.
- **Xylem** and **G.A. Fleet's** continued funding of the Tibbetts Lake Revitalization, to help us in our efforts to fight the invasive plants threatening the eco-system of the lake.
- **Thalle Industries** ongoing sponsorship of our Graffiti Squad, and generous gold sponsor of our Gala.
- **Fujifilm's** annual commitment to beautification of Kensico Dam Plaza, in preparation each year for 9/11 Remembrance.
- **Captain Lawrence Brewing Co.** for their generous sponsorship of Kensico Dam's July 3rd Music Fest and fireworks.
- **Pepsico Foundation** with their inaugural sponsorship of our Clean River Project.
- **Verizon Foundation's** support of STEM and Robotics at Camp Morty.
- **Robison**, a yearly sponsor of Bicycle Sundays, Giving Tuesday, Golf Classic and kickoff of Winter Wonderland.
- **Wegman's** for our Ned & Albert Holiday Treat Box Sponsorship at Winter Wonderland.
- **CVE North America** returned as our Adopt-a-Park sponsor of Lenoir Preserve.
- **M&T Bank**, continued sponsor of our annual New Year's Eve celebration at Winter Wonderland.
- **Regeneron Pharmaceuticals** in partnership with Volunteer New York! In celebration of their Day for Doing Good throughout our county parks.
- **Smart Outdoors** for their support of Westchester's trailways.
- **Bank of America Charitable Foundation** for their support of Merriwood at Camp Morty.
- **BJ's Wholesale Club** as a new co-presenting sponsor of this year's Bicycle Sundays.

Thank you to program sponsors Scope Foundation, Morgan Stanley Foundation, Osaka Gas, Triton International, Maxx Properties, USI Insurance, Cubico, CVE North America, Benjamin Steakhouse, Iona Preparatory School.

And thank you to for the generosity of our many donors, particularly the Westchester Community Foundation, Pamela Dubitsky, Barbara Abeles, the V& L Marx Foundation, the Ruth & Seymour Klein Foundation, the White Plains Rotary Foundation, Cognitive & Behavioral Consultants of Westchester, Tarnok Family Foundation, Ocean Conservancy, Douglas Rosenow, Rutowski Family Foundation, Osaka Gas, Westchester Cycle Club, Veolia North America, Standard Amusements, Dan Reingold, Lucy R. Waletzky and Joel & Joyce Seligman, and our generous Board of Trustees.

PARKS ARE ESSENTIAL *Gala*

In 2022, Westchester Parks Foundation celebrated our most successful Annual Gala to date, honoring the remarkable vision and leadership in our community by individuals and businesses who help our Westchester County parks grow and flourish all year long.

- **Fujifilm**, *Community Partner Award*, for more than two decades of sweat equity and commitment to our parks, particularly at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla near the global company's regional headquarters. For more than 20 years, volunteer teams from Fujifilm have cleaned up and beautified Kensico Dam Plaza, including the "Circle of Remembrance" that rings The Rising, Westchester County's 9/11 Memorial. Fujifilm has also regularly contributed support and volunteers for cleanups, initiatives and plantings, including the stunning cherry trees at the base of the dam, making a significant impact in our parks.
- **Robison**, *Business Impact Award*, for their leadership role in supporting the programs that thousands of community members in Westchester benefit from. Port Chester-based Robison enhances the experience for park users with their contributions to Westchester's Winter Wonderland and the iconic tradition on the Bronx River Reservation, Bicycle Sundays.
- **The Arc Westchester**, *Special Recognition for Service to Parks*, for their commitment to supporting individuals with developmental disabilities and their continuous efforts with Westchester Parks Foundation's Volunteer Program. This beneficial partnership provides individuals a space to foster independence and promote healthy living through weekly cleanup efforts dedicated to thirteen county parks.

On the beautiful night of September 15, Westchester Parks Foundation and our dedicated supporters filled the large upstairs ballroom at Glen Island Harbour Club. Not only did we celebrate a successful evening of fundraising, but our generous attendees raised their paddles high and helped raise the funding needed to kick off the inaugural season of **Merriwood** in 2023! We are sincerely grateful and look forward to continuing to honor Westchester County's park and open space champions!

2022 Parks Are Essential Gala honorees with Seth Mandelbaum

WPF Board Members volunteering at Tibbetts Brook Park

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Westchester Parks Foundation continues to support the professional development of the management and staff of the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Conservation. Professional Development contributes to the high quality of service that PRC staff provide, enabling our park system to be clean, safe, and well-managed. Staff provide park visitors with a level of excellence that they have come to expect, and we are proud to sponsor staff development seminars and conferences throughout the year.

HELPING PARKS & COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTY

Westchester Parks Foundation is the fiscal sponsor for "Friends" groups around Westchester. Our sponsorship enables the Friends of Read Sanctuary to offer additional beautification to the nature preserve, a boost in fundraising capacity to the Port Chester Skatepark, and facilitate online donations to the Friends of the Riverwalk and Friends of New Rochelle Parks, among others.

FINANCES

Westchester Parks Foundation ended 2022 with revenues of $3,593,075 and expenses of $3,256,801 (unaudited). The resiliency of our earned revenue streams and business operations, coupled with receipt of federal funding and strong controls on spending, contributed to an overall increase in net revenue and flexibility to contribute to key projects in our treasured parks.

REVENUES:

Programs and special projects: 74%

Fundraising & Grants: 13%

Administrative: 13%

EXPENDITURES:

Program and facility support: 84%

Administration: 10%

Fundraising: 6%

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWS

Westchester Parks Foundation wishes to thank the following members of our 2022 Board of Trustees, who are not continuing with us. We cannot support parks and open spaces in Westchester County without our talented and dedicated Trustees. We are especially sad to say goodbye to longtime board member Girish Menon and former Chair Joanne Fernandez. We wish them well and look forward to continuing the good work they pursued during their time with WPF.

This year we welcomed Jan Johnsen to our Board.

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WESTCHESTER PARKS FOUNDATION

www.theWPF.org
914-231-4600

Lenoir Preserve